



Holy Sews Inc  
P.O. Box 251506  
Little Rock, AR 72225  
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www.holysews.org

## **Guidelines for Wedding Dress Donations to Holy Sews**

- Fabric quality must be substantial enough to not be see-through. In order to check this aspect, please be sure to separate the dress from the lining. The lining of the dress cannot be used.
- If you determine that the fabric is too thin, the next step is to examine the embellishments.
- These can be removed with a seam ripper and donated to Holy Sews. Please be advised that sometimes the beads may be sewn to the dress. If this is the case, simply cut around the applique and we can prepare it for use.
- The dress does not have to be dry cleaned, that is an extra and unnecessary expense. If your dress is soiled or stained, simply remove the lining and petticoat and wash in the washing machine. You can dry it too. If the bodice is heavily beaded, remove the bodice before washing, or turn it inside out. Often the bodice fabric isn't large enough to use for any part of the layette, and it is taken apart to use for other purposes. If the bodice is of high quality with a great deal of beading, our ministry has talented volunteers who can re-purpose this part into a variety of things which can be sold for fundraising purposes.
- We cannot use the veil. If you donate your veil, please be advised that we will either sell it to use the proceeds for our ministry or donate to another organization for charitable purposes.
- Lace fabric is gorgeous, however, if the entire dress is covered in lace, it is too difficult to work with and unfortunately cannot be used. If you would like to cut the lace into applique pieces, which could be sewn individually onto layettes, this would be the most practical way to donate.
- Some dresses have the design embroidered directly onto them. If this fits the description of your dress, please contact a Holy Sews representative for advice.
- Petticoats cannot be used, you may donate them to us, but please understand that we will pass to another nonprofit organization.
- Steps to disassemble a dress:
  - Remove the bodice.
  - This can be done with a seam ripper if there is a seam at the waist. If there is no seam, simply cut with scissors.
  - If there is trim around the skirt and train, simply remove it with a seam ripper. Sometimes the trim is covered with beads and removing the seam will cause the beads to fall off. If this is the case, you can simply cut just above the trim line.



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- Another way to prevent the beads from falling off the dress is to apply and iron-on fabric interfacing or stabilizer.
- Cut fabric into pieces as follows:
- 10 3/2" squares, 5 1/4" inch squares, 16"x 5" rectangles
- Ideally, this would be in sets of one piece of each per set. However, if you wish to only prepare 10 1/2" squares, that is useful as well. Please be mindful of placement of appliques on the dress. You may have to get creative with your cutting to make the best use of the beauty of the fabric. Please allow about 1/2 inch of leeway on the edge of the fabric for sewing. (In other words, be certain that the beading is not too close to the edge.
- If you are unable to take apart your dress, please be advised that we may not be able to get to it for quite some time, and that it may be more feasible for us to either sell it to use the proceeds for our ministry or donate to another organization.